

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

July 22, 2024

8:06 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Vice Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on July 18, 2024.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Chris Lollis

Henry Wilson

C. Claiborne Linvill

Chris Bowers, Chairman (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of July 22, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. Luke Campbell: Mr. Campbell addressed Council regarding childcare in Pickens County.
2. Beau Grant: Mr. Grant addressed Council regarding the Sheriff's Department.

Seeing no other public forum speakers, the Vice Chairman closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- June 3, 2024 Council Meeting
- June 17, 2024 Special-Called Meeting
- June 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- June 24, 2024 Special-Called Meeting
- Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the amended minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (5-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- New Pickens County Project Manager, Dirk Ishiwata
- Information on the Pickens County Compensation Study Implementation Breakdown
- Information on Global Tech outage and preparation from Information Systems
- Update on Pickens County Stormwater
- Update on Solid Waste Tires

Council asked Mr. Roper questions that included, but was not limited to:

- Question regarding brush grinder at the Landfill
- Question regarding capital purchases
- Question regarding policy on County Employees not being able to speak to Council regarding a constituent issue

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, July 22, 2024. Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Veteran Paul Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Childcare Workforce Task Force – Log No. 217

Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill presented to Council a presentation of the Childcare Workforce Task Force that included:

- Members/Organizations in the Childcare Workforce Task Force
- Importance of Quality Childcare
- Key Problems with Childcare in Pickens County
- 50% of Pickens County census tracts are Childcare deserts
- Childcare availability in Pickens County
- Recommendations at the County level
- Task Force Long-Term Goals/Recommendations
- Task Force Short-Term Recommendations
- Task Force Immediate Recommendations

Discussion between Council/Staff included:

- Current total of unallocated ARPA Funding
- Estimated cost of 911 EMS Call Center

- After more discussion, Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to directly fund the YMCA of Easley an amount of \$500,000, using ARPA funding, for renovations for the old building to be used as a childcare facility.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion included:

- Councilman Alex Saitta made a substitute motion to allocate \$500,000, using ARPA funding, towards building the Medic 1 EMS Station in Pickens. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. Motion failed (1-3-1), with Councilman Henry Wilson, Vice Chairman Roy Costner and Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill opposed, and Councilman Chris Lollis abstained.

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- Back to the original motion, Discussion included:
 - Councilman Saitta went into discussion on why he feels this funding should be used towards medic 1.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for the motion. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.
- **Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to directly fund the YMCA of Easley an amount of \$500,000, using ARPA funding, for renovations for the old building to be used as a childcare facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.**

Council Action on Log No. 217: Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to directly fund the YMCA of Easley an amount of \$500,000, using ARPA funding, for renovations for the old building to be used as a childcare facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.

Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked if Council had any discussion. Councilman Alex Saitta explained why he is voting no on this motion. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.

2024 Recreation Funding Applications – Log No. 230

Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2024 Recreation Funding Applications.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill reviewed District 1 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
1	City of Clemson Arts Center	\$	5,000.00
1	City of Clemson Parks and Rec	\$	10,000.00
1	Clemson Aquatic Team	\$	7,500.00
1	Town of Central	\$	1,116.59
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$	23,616.59

- Councilman Chris Lollis reviewed the District 2 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
2	Town of Central Parks & Recreation	\$	31,083.41
2	Town of Six Mile	\$	18,916.59
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$	50,000.00

- Councilman Alex Saitta reviewed the District 3 applications and made a motion to approve the following requests below, and change the recommendation for Hagood Mill to \$17,200. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
3	Carolina Climbers Coalition	\$ 21,075.00
3	Hagood Mill	\$ 17,200.00
3	PC Soil and Water	\$ 23,794.97
3	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 3,333.34
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$ 65,403.31

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner reviewed District 4 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
4	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 42,589.06
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 42,589.06

- *Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to put Recreation Funding Applications on the next meeting agenda to review District 5 applications. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).*
- Councilman Henry Wilson reviewed the District 6 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
6	Dacusville Community Club	\$ 57,000.00
6	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 3,333.33
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 46,194.98
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 106,528.31

Council Action on Log No. 230: The committee made the following motions:

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill reviewed District 1 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
1	City of Clemson Arts Center	\$ 5,000.00
1	City of Clemson Parks and Rec	\$ 10,000.00

1	Clemson Aquatic Team	\$	7,500.00
1	Town of Central	\$	1,116.59
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$	23,616.59

- Councilman Chris Lollis reviewed the District 2 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
2	Town of Central Parks & Recreation	\$	31,083.41
2	Town of Six Mile	\$	18,916.59
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$	50,000.00

- Councilman Alex Saitta reviewed the District 3 applications and made a motion to approve the following request, changing the recommendation for Hagood Mill to \$9,700. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
3	Carolina Climbers Coalition	\$	21,075.00
3	Hagood Mill	\$	9,700.00
3	PC Soil and Water	\$	23,794.97
3	Pickens County YMCA	\$	3,333.34
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$	55,703.31

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner reviewed District 4 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
4	City of Liberty Recreation	\$	42,589.06
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$	42,589.06

- *Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to put Recreation Funding Applications on the next meeting agenda to review District 5 applications. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).*
- Councilman Henry Wilson reviewed the District 6 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
6	Dacusville Community Club	\$ 57,000.00
6	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 3,333.33
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 46,194.98
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 106,528.31

Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, the motion carried (5-0).

2024 Accommodations Tax Funding Applications – Log No. 231

Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2024 Accommodations Tax Funding Applications.

Allison Fowler, Director of Community Tourism and Development, serves as the staff liaison for this committee and presented a proposal for a new process for ATAX Funding.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to support the new proposal for a new ATAX Funding process. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council discussed the 30% ATAX funding applications.

- After much discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to reach back out to these organizations to get specific details on what they will be marketing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (4-1), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill opposed.

Council discussed the 65% ATAX funding applications.

- After much discussion, Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendations for the Accommodations Tax Funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).

Council stated they are very impressed with the work the Committee has done and appreciated the feedback for the Recommendations.

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
1	Pickens County Historical Society	Museum House & Judge's Office	\$ 15,000
2	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	Expansion & Promotion of the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$ 1,791

3	Senior League Baseball World Series	Senior League Baseball World Series	\$ 25,000
4	Preserving our Southern Appalachian Music	2025 Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$ 2,000
5	Holly Springs Center	Website Redesign; Rebranding; Social Media	\$ 5,000
6	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Visitor Center Upgrades	\$ 19,830
7	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Pickens Appalachian Folk Fest	\$ 7,650
8	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Independence Day Event	\$ 600
9	Clemson Aquatic Team (CAT)	Timing Equipment	\$ 15,818
10	City of Easley Parks and Recreation Department	Doodle Trail crosswalk striping	\$ 21,902
11	Brooks Center	Advertising 2024-25 Events	\$ 20,000
12	Dacusville Heritage Association	Dacusville Farm Show	\$ 5,000
13	Hagood Mill Foundation	Selugadu – Native American Celebration	\$ 3,150
14	PC250	Liberty Trees	\$ 1,500
15	South Carolina Botanical Garden	Sustainability Fair	\$ 10,250
16	American Legion	Veterans Day Celebration	\$ 7,500
17	Town of Six Mile	Issaqueena Festival	\$ 2,000
18	Pickens Azalea Festival	Marketing & Entertainment for Festival	\$ 11,700
TOTAL			\$ 175,691

Council Action on Log No. 231: The following motions were made:

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to support the new proposal for a new ATAX Funding process. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to reach back out to these organizations to get specific details on what they will be marketing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (4-1), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill opposed.

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- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendations for the Accommodations Tax Funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).

Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. The motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson, and carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- The next Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6pm in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated this is his last week as President of the SC Association of Counties, how much he has enjoyed serving and discussed the Annual Conference which will take place next week.
- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill stated she is going to request that the September Committee Meeting be moved. The Clerk will reach out to the Chairman.

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Vice Chairman Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for motion period and new business.

Seeing no discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC STUDY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MORE SAFE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE PICKENS COUNTY DETENTION CENTER, ALONG WITH SOURCE OF FUNDS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
 - Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made the motion to consider this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Discussion included:
 - Administrator Roper went into discussion on this Resolution and project.

- After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made amended the motion for the Administrator to request for the City of Pickens to pay half of the study and report back. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and the motion carried (5-0).
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to commit this Resolution to the Committee Log. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (5-0).
- **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF RENEWED LEASE BY COUNTY FROM DUKE ENERGY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to approve this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

- **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 644 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4- 1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (PROJECT TURN).**
 - Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to approve second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- **PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 642 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (PROJECT RED).**
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner gavelled into Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.
Seeing no public speakers, the Vice Chairman declared Public Hearing closed.
 - Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried (5-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

- Pickens County Conservation Fund Rules and Procedures – *Committee of the Whole*

Vice Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis, and carried unanimously (5-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Vice Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Contractual Matter – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Proposed Contractual Agreement on RealtyLink on future expansion incentives for Speedway Industrial Park
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. The motion was carried unanimously (5-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Contractual Matter – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Proposed Contractual Agreement on RealtyLink on future expansion incentives for Speedway Industrial Park – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman of County Council